utilization whether the item is reserved for Small Scale Industry or not. The balance quantity, if any, that remains uncovered is procured from the private sector/Khadi Village Industries Commission (KVIC)/The Handloom/Handicraft Sector or Central Cottage Industries Commission (CCIC) and from the Association of Corporation and Apex Societies of Handlooms (ACASH). Certain items are reserved for procurement from the Handloom/Handicraft Sector like Hand Towel, Durries including floor durries, all bandages including gauze, handmade paper, stationery including file covers, writing pads, curtain & sofa cloth, table covers with napkins, dusters, bed sheets and blanket barracks. The items reserved for procurement form Small Scale Industries are not being procured from abroad.

(c) Does not arise.

Development of a new tank MBT-EX by DRDO

1081. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of *DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the DRDO has developed a new battle tank with a code name "Tank Ex";

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the final tests have been carried out on the new tank; and

(d) if so, by when Government propose to induct the same into the Indian Army?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) This tank has been developed by integrating a modified low silhouette chassis of in service T-72 tank and re-engineered turret of of MBT ARJUN.The weight of this tank will be around 47 tons and the maximum road speed of about 60 km. per hour.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The tank has undergone only limited technical trials by DRDO.It will be offered to the Army at an appropriate stage.